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MANITOWAC, WIS.

To the Editor.

SIR: I enclose a letter recently addressed by me to the chairman of the Universal Military Training League, which you may give what publicity you choose.

Yours truly,

JOHN SCHUETTE.

[ENCLOSURE.]

*Universal Military Training League.*

GENTLEMEN: In response to your invitation to join your league and aid your propaganda for the passage of the Chamberlain Universal Military Training Bill, I wish to state that I consider such legislation contrary to our aims and hampering the winning of the war.

We are now sacrificing our all to root out the pernicious militarism, the breeder of most wars, and by its destruction hope to make this world safe to live in, by abolishing war for all time, and by substituting law as an adjuster of all international disputes.

And now your league attempts to foist upon our country the very pernicious military system our soldiers, at the risk of their lives, are combatting to destroy.

To adopt this system here now, when it could be of no help to our soldiers in this war, would be an admission that we had little faith of destroying it in Europe and winning the war, which would greatly discourage the hope of our soldiers, that by their noble effort and sacrifice they will be rewarded, by gaining the greatest victory for the betterment of all mankind.

If we should not realize our aim for world's peace in this war, "the greatest calamity to humanity"—yes, then we may be compelled to adopt the oppressive military system you now propose—training our boys in the art of destroying life and property, imbue them with the brutal military spirit, and turn the world into a military camp not worth while to live in—but not as long, we firmly believe, as we do, that we will win this war and that it will be the last on earth.

Therefore, we should not now change our traditional military system, which served us so well, to the oppressive revolting Prussian system which has proven the most disturbing factor to world peace.

JOHN SCHUETTE.

BETRAYING OUR CAUSE.

Thousands of our finest young men are renouncing all that life holds dear in order that the next generation and those that follow may live in a world freed from the oppression and brutality of organized and aggressive force. Thousands of mothers all over the land are finding comfort in the faith that defeat of Germany will bring with it defeat for all time of the theories and the institutions that have impelled Germany to plunge the world into this red horror, just as they would have impelled any nation where the minds of men lived under their baneful sway. President Wilson has set the nation's seal on this faith—a faith holy with the tears of women and the blood of men. It has become a promise and a determination. It involves the defeat of Germany only because the German government has become the supreme exponent of the statesmanship that relies on force and aggression. British labor would not go on for a single day without this faith, if the war were a struggle between parochial nationalism and nothing more. Pacifist America—pacifist in the sense that the President is pacifist—would not face the stupendous sacrifices that lie ahead of us if we were not sustained by this faith. We are united for the defeat of Germany as the first necessary step in its realization. And, looking ahead, the statesmen and the democratic forces of America and England are united for the second step. Given the defeat of Germany and her compulsory acquiescence in a world program, they are determined that this program shall begin with the casting out of the diplomacy that relies on great military establishments which burden the people, stifle democratic aspirations, and in themselves incite to aggression and bellicosity. Premier Lloyd-George has said within recent weeks that one of the country's most important war aims would not be achieved if after this war there were need of universal military service. To admit such a need is to admit that the Allies are to fail, and the coming peace to be but a truce. Condition universal military service on failure or only partial victory in the present war, and all England and America would answer "Aye" to those who urge it with this condition. But condition it on allied victory, and the answer of the allied democracies is that he who proposes it proposes the betrayal of our cause and mocks our dead.—*The Public.*

## BOOK REVIEWS

ALL BOOKS LISTED HERE MAY BE OBTAINED, POSTAGE PREPAID, UPON APPLICATION TO THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY, COLORADO BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

**Our Revolution.** Essays by "Leon Trotsky." Translated and edited by *Moissaye J. Olgin*. Henry Holt and Company, New York. 220 p., with index. 1918. \$1.25.

With apparent faithfulness Mr. Olgin has reproduced some of the more important revolutionary essays of the Russian leader, dating from the eve of the revolution of 1905 to March, 1917, when Bronstein, or "Trotsky" (the editor explains this to be the same familiar sort of *nom de plume* as "Gorki" or "Fyodor Sologub"), left the United States to assume the leadership of the Bolshevik forces. They reveal an intellect by no means incongruous with the position Trotsky has held in the Russian chaos, one showing, somewhat as might be expected, the iron of bitterness and the fire of ruthless zeal. Not so clearly evident is the clear coolness of broad, rather than far, vision, which, with the other two qualities, is needful to forge true steel. One does not find here the traitor or pawn of Prussianism that he has been claimed to be; but one can understand that the bludgeon mind of angry fanaticism might not question too closely the source of aid received, lacking the fine edge of moral discernment necessary to foresee the inevitable result of victory purchased unscrupulously. These glimpses of the second prominent figure of the Russian revolution are distinctly worth the reader's while. They are scenes from a most human drama—belike a tragedy, when we consider Trotsky's own words: "History is a tremendous mechanism

serving our ideals. Its work is slow, barbarously slow, implacably cruel; yet the work goes on. We believe in it. Only at moments, when this voracious monster drinks the living blood of our hearts to serve it as food, we wish to shout with all our might: '*What thou doest, do quickly!*'"

**Southeastern Europe.** By *Vladislav R. Savich*, formerly head of the Serbian Foreign Office press bureau. With an introduction by *Nicholas Murray Butler*, President of Columbia University. 276 p., with index. 1918. Fleming H. Revell & Co., New York. \$1.50.

This most friendly and intelligent Serbian, with his sincere appreciation of American idealism, has a story to tell us of vivid action and tragic import. The story of Serbia, as we know it best, is of the Belgium of Eastern Europe, hunted and harried, devastated and violated to a point revolting almost to the stomach of Kultur itself. Mr. Savich tells us much that we only dimly knew of the greater Serbia, reaching back its roots into the early Christian centuries and beyond, driven and led hither and thither, but maintaining through all trial and strain a national unity that today binds together in a perceptible union peoples of different religions and tongues, occupying territory extending from Goritza to Monastir, and from the Adriatic coast inland to and beyond the Danube. With considerable skill the author develops his thesis that the solution of peace in